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POWELL REITERATES SUPPORT FOR ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT PLAN

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Secretary of State Colin Powell expressed U.S. support for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's disengagement plan from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank, and called on the Palestinians to consolidate their security organizations to more effectively fight terror.

Speaking in Washington July 6 with Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom, Powell said President Bush is committed to supporting the Israeli disengagement plan "with the understanding and the acknowledgment that it will involve the West Bank and it will all be consistent with the road map and the basis for peace that we all are quite familiar with."

Powell said that he and Foreign Minister Shalom "had an open and candid discussion" about Israeli settlements and Palestinian freedom of movement.

"I explained to the Minister that we have some disappointment in the rate at which outposts have been removed, and the Minister gave me assurances that they are hard at work on that, and we'll be exchanging more information on the subject," he said.

Foreign Minister Shalom said his country is committed to removing unauthorized Israeli outposts as mentioned in the road map.

"We removed tens of outposts already. There are 28 left. We gave all the list to the American administration and we are working together in order to implement our commitments in the near future," Shalom said.

Secretary Powell also called on the Palestinians to consolidate their security organizations by "giving authority to a prime minister to run those security organizations in an effective way" to bring an end to terror attacks against Israelis.

Turning to Iran, Powell said Iran's intent to maintain a nuclear weapons development program is now being recognized by the international community.

The United States, he said, will continue to "use all of the diplomatic and other resources at our disposal, to make sure the international community stands unified behind the effort to stop Iran from pursuing nuclear weapons development, or worse, acquiring a nuclear weapon."

WHITE HOUSE REPORT, JULY 6: IRAQ, MEXICO

Iraq survey group continues search for WMD

White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan told reporters July 6 that the Iraq survey group has investigated the issues and has demonstrated Saddam Hussein was in "serious and clear violation of U.N. Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1441."

UNSCR 1441, passed in November 2002, stated that Iraq was in material breach for possessing WMD programs and provided a final opportunity for the Iraq to comply with U.N. weapons inspectors.

The Iraq Survey Group (ISG), headed by Charles Duelfer, is a unit of 1,200 American, Australian and British WMD experts conducting the search for Iraqi weapons programs.

The spokesman said that the ISG's work showed that Saddam Hussein had both the intent and the capability to produce WMD.

When asked about a recent statement from British Prime Minister Tony Blair on the inability to find weapons of

mass destruction in Iraq, McClellan responded, "Prime Minister Blair said that Saddam Hussein's regime was a threat to international security. We know that he [Hussein] had them [WMD] because he used them in the past against his own people and against a neighboring country."

"The Iraq Survey Group is determining what happened to the WMD and we should let them continue their work," McClellan said.

KERRY INVITES JOHN EDWARDS TO BE VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

North Carolina senator understands, defends American values, Kerry says

By Darlisa Crawford
Washington File Staff Writer

On July 6, presumed Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry invited North Carolina Senator John Edwards to be his running mate in the 2004 presidential campaign.

Edwards, a rival of Kerry during the 2004 presidential primary season, accepted the offer during a telephone conversation on the morning of July 6. Kerry announced his decision first in an e-mail to his supporters and then at a Pittsburgh rally.

"[My wife] Teresa and I could not be more excited that John and Elizabeth Edwards will be our partners in our journey to make America stronger at home and respected in the world," Kerry said in the email.

"John understands and defends the values of America. He has shown courage and conviction as a champion for middle-class Americans and those struggling to reach middle class. He has shown guts and determination and political skill in his own race for the presidency of the United States," Kerry added.

During the primaries, the 51-year-old Edwards took a populist stance with traces of protectionism, emphasizing proposals to assist working-class America. A former trial lawyer and a self-made millionaire from a textile town, Edwards won his birth state of South Carolina in the recent Democratic presidential primary. Edwards' attacks on the "two Americas" -- one for the rich and

one for those “struggling to get by” -- are expected to be an important theme in the Kerry-Edwards campaign for the White House. Referencing African American poet Langston Hughes, Kerry said, “Let America be America again. We are all in the same boat. We are going to fight to build one America for all Americans.”

According to the Associated Press (AP), the search for Kerry’s running mate was based on five criteria: demonstrated leadership with good judgment on national security and commitments to economic prosperity and social justice; dedication to Kerry’s issues and his vision for the United States; ability to inspire confidence in every American voter; alignment with Kerry “on every level;” and readiness “at any moment to assume the awesome responsibility of president.”

After considering 25 potential candidates, Kerry narrowed his list down to three possibilities -- Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack, former Democratic presidential candidate Richard Gephardt of Missouri and Edwards, according to AP.

Since being sworn in to the Senate on January 6, 1999, Edwards has supported public education, medical-patient protection, abortion rights, campaign-finance reform and modernization of the U.S. banking system. He has opposed corporate corruption and terrorism. Edwards also opposes same-sex marriage but supports domestic-partner benefits for same-sex couples. The North Carolina senator advocates a plan for improved health care coverage that would cost an estimated \$53 billion per year, an expense he says could be covered by repealing Bush’s income tax breaks for the richest U.S. citizens.

Edwards serves on four Senate committees: Judiciary; Small Business; Intelligence; Education, Labor and Pensions; and Health.

Although Kerry and Edwards have disagreed on tax cuts and the North American Free Trade Agreement (Kerry supported both), Edwards and Kerry both supported the decision to go to war in Iraq.

In announcing his endorsement of Edwards, Kerry stressed that health care is a right, not a privilege, for all Americans.

“We’ll be fighting to give the middle class a voice by providing good paying jobs and affordable health care. We’ll be fighting to make America energy independent. We’ll be fighting to build a strong military and lead

strong alliances, so young Americans are never put in harm’s way because we insisted on going it alone,” Kerry added.

With the 2004 presidential election four months away, Kerry emphasized restoring old alliances and building new ones with his new running mate: “In the next 120 days and in the administration that follows, John Edwards and I will be fighting for the America we love.”

Edwards must still be nominated by the Democratic National Convention before he officially becomes that party’s nominee for vice president.

CASSINI GLIMPSES SURFACE OF SATURN’S GIANT MOON, TITAN

Moon may be deep freeze for chemicals the preceded life on Earth

Instruments operating in hundreds of wavelengths aboard the Cassini spacecraft now orbiting Saturn have succeeded in penetrating the dense atmosphere of the moon Titan and identifying physical features on its surface, according to a July 2 NASA press release.

Cassini also provided images of a cloud of gas surrounding Titan so large that it could envelop Saturn and all its rings.

Cassini’s mapping spectrometer, NASA said, “reveals an exotic surface bearing a variety of materials in the south and a circular feature that may be a crater in the north. Near-infrared colors, some three times redder than the human eye can see, reveal the surface with unusual clarity.”

The study of Titan, Saturn’s largest moon, is one of the major goals of the Cassini-Huygens mission. Scientists speculate that Titan may preserve in deep-freeze many chemical compounds that preceded life on Earth.

“We’re seeing a totally alien surface,” said Dr. Elizabeth Turtle of the University of Arizona, Tucson. “There are linear features, circular features, curvilinear features. These suggest geologic activity on Titan, but we really

don't know how to interpret them yet. We've got some exciting work cut out for us."

Following is the text of a July 2 NASA press release:

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Cassini-Huygens Mission to Saturn
Press Release
Washington, DC
July 2, 2004

Cassini Provides New Views of Titan, Saturn's Largest Moon

The Cassini spacecraft has revealed surface details of Saturn's moon Titan and imaged a huge cloud of gas surrounding the planet-sized moon.

Cassini gathered data before and during a distant flyby of the orange moon yesterday. Titan's dense atmosphere is opaque at most wavelengths, but the spacecraft captured some surface details, including a possible crater, through wavelengths in which the atmosphere is clear.

"Although the initial images appear bland and hard to interpret, we're happy to report that, with a combination of instruments, we have indeed seen Titan's surface with unprecedented clarity. We also look forward to future, much closer flybys and use of radar for much greater levels of surface detail," said Dr. Dennis Matson of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif., project scientist for the international Cassini-Huygens mission.

Cassini's visible and infrared mapping spectrometer pierced the smog that enshrouds Titan. This instrument, capable of mapping mineral and chemical features of the moon, reveals an exotic surface bearing a variety of materials in the south and a circular feature that may be a crater in the north. Near-infrared colors, some three times redder than the human eye can see, reveal the surface with unusual clarity.

"At some wavelengths, we see dark regions of relatively pure water ice and brighter regions with a much higher amount of non-ice materials, such as simple hydrocarbons. This is different from what we expected. It's preliminary, but it may change the way we interpret light and dark areas on Titan," said JPL's Dr. Kevin Baines, Cassini science-team member. "A methane cloud is visible near the south pole. It's made of unusually large particles compared to the typical haze particles surrounding

the moon, suggesting a dynamically active atmosphere there."

This is the first time scientists are able to map the mineralogy of Titan. Using hundreds of wavelengths, many of which have never been used in Titan imaging before, they are creating a global map showing distributions of hydrocarbon-rich regions and areas of icy material.

Cassini's camera also sees through the haze in some wavelengths. "We're seeing a totally alien surface," said Dr. Elizabeth Turtle of the University of Arizona, Tucson. "There are linear features, circular features, curvilinear features. These suggest geologic activity on Titan, but we really don't know how to interpret them yet. We've got some exciting work cut out for us."

Since entering orbit, Cassini has also provided the first view of a vast swarm of hydrogen molecules surrounding Titan well beyond the top of Titan's atmosphere. Cassini's magnetospheric imaging instrument, first of its kind on any interplanetary mission, provided images of the huge cloud sweeping along with Titan in orbit around Saturn. The cloud is so big that Saturn and its rings would fit within it. "The top of Titan's atmosphere is being bombarded by highly energetic particles in Saturn's radiation belts, and that is knocking away this neutral gas," said Dr. Stamatios Krimigis of Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, Laurel, Md., principal investigator for the magnetospheric imager. "In effect, Titan is gradually losing material from the top of its atmosphere, and that material is being dragged around Saturn."

The study of Titan, Saturn's largest moon, is one of the major goals of the Cassini-Huygens mission. Titan may preserve in deep-freeze many chemical compounds that preceded life on Earth. Friday's flyby at a closest distance of 339,000 kilometers (210,600 miles) provided Cassini's best look at Titan so far, but over the next four years, the orbiter will execute 45 Titan flybys as close as approximately 950 kilometers (590 miles). This will permit high-resolution mapping of the moon's surface with an imaging radar instrument, which can see through the opaque haze of Titan's upper atmosphere. In January 2005, the Huygens probe that is now attached to Cassini will descend through Titan's atmosphere to the surface.

During the ring plane crossing, the radio and plasma wave science instrument on Cassini measured little puffs of plasma produced by dust impacts. While crossing the plane of Saturn's rings, the instrument detected up to

680 dust hits per second. "The particles are comparable in size to particles in cigarette smoke," said Dr. Don Gurnett of the University of Iowa, Iowa City, principal investigator for the instrument. "When we crossed the ring plane, we had roughly 100,000 total dust hits to the spacecraft in less than five minutes. We converted these into audible sounds that resemble hail hitting a tin roof."

The spacecraft reported no unusual activity due to the hits and performed flawlessly, successfully going into orbit around Saturn on June 30. The engine burn for entering orbit went so well that mission managers have decided to forgo an orbital-adjustment maneuver scheduled for today.

The Cassini-Huygens mission is a cooperative project of NASA, the European Space Agency and the Italian Space Agency. The Jet Propulsion Laboratory, a division of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, manages the Cassini-Huygens mission for NASA's Office of Space Science, Washington, D.C. JPL designed, developed and assembled the Cassini orbiter.

Please Note: Most texts and transcripts mentioned in the U.S. Mission Daily Bulletin are available via our homepage www.usmission.ch. Select "Washington File" from the drop-down menu under "News."